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Cherwell District Council election



LABOUR'S POLL JOY

LABOUR has made more inroads in Banbury after taking two seats from the Conservatives at last week's Cherwell District Council election.

It seized Banbury Grimsbury and Castle and Banbury Neithrop at last Thursday's poll – taking its total number of councillors from five to seven on the 50-seat council.

The Conservatives said the UK Independence Party had taken some of its

By Oliver Evans

votes as its majority slipped from 41 to 40.

Last year, Labour triumphed over the Conservatives in the elections for Oxfordshire County Council.

Labour won all four Banbury seats, compared to the five held by Conservatives at the previous 2009 poll and before boundaries changed.

Labour group leader Sean Woodcock said: "We are very, very pleased.

"We have shown that Labour is the alternative to the two right-wing parties in Banbury."

The Conservative district councillor for Banbury Grimsbury and Castle, Margaret Cullip, won with 1,694 votes in 2010 but her replacement, Tony Mephram, polled 574.

He lost to Labour's Claire Bell, who attracted 950 votes. She said: "A lot of people turned out to vote because they were concerned about UKIP."

Mr Mephram said: "I think it is a large protest vote that went UKIP's way."

In Banbury Neithrop, Alys Ahmed's share fell from 949 to 433 as Labour's Matt Johnstone got 634 compared to the party's 930 high in 2010.

The Conservatives held three other Banbury wards – Colin Clarke in Calthorpe, Kieron Mallon in Easington and Tony Ilott in Hardwick.

Mr Mallon, who polled 1,209 votes to second place David Burton of UKIP with 553, said: "I fought a totally local campaign based on the work I had done in the ward of the previous term."

Labour's Barry Richards held Ruscote for the party, replacing Patrick Cartledge, who stepped down.

It means the Tories have nine Banbury district councillors compared to 11 before. Labour have seven, compared to five in

2010. The parties only fought the Liberal Democrats in 2010, but The Green Party and UK Independence Party fielded candidates this year.

The latter got 507 votes in Banbury Grimsbury and Castle and 363 in Banbury Neithrop, with it taking 20.5 per cent of the vote for 16 seats up for election.

In Easington, Hardwick and Ruscote wards, UKIP came second, polling a total of 1,626 votes.

Conservative group leader Barry Wood said: "We lost a couple of seats in Banbury because it is mid-term and there are parts of Banbury that swing. We would expect that."

Dickie Bird, who led UKIP's campaign and lost to Tory James Macnamara in The Aston & Heyfords, said it had not benefited from a "protest vote".

He said: "We are disappointed but there is still a big grin on our face. You have not heard the last of us."

Of the 25,988 votes cast in the Cherwell district, the Conservatives got 42.4 per cent, Labour 23.4 per cent, UKIP 20.5 per cent, while the Liberal Democrats and Greens, who did not fight all wards, got 6.9 per cent and 6.8 per cent respectively. The turnout was 36.82 per cent.

■ More election reaction, See Page 2



A thrilled Sean Woodcock

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Tory: Loss is no big deal



LEFT: Labour's Claire Bell enjoys victory in the Banbury Grimsbury and Castle seat

OX67152



RIGHT: Tory group leader Barry Wood

Cherwell District Council

Banbury Calthorpe			Bryn Williams	CON	565
Colin Clarke	CON	767	Aubrey Ellis	UKIP	144
Sharon Derbe	LAB	395	Ian Thomas	LIBD	118
Christian Miller	UKIP	337	Colin Clark	GRE	94
Christopher Manley	GRE	128	Christopher Farman	LAB	73
Banbury Easington			Fringford		
Kieron Mallon	CON	1,209	Barry Wood	CON	664
David Burton	UKIP	553	Barbara Fairweather	UKIP	130
Mary Young	LAB	497	Stephen Uttley	LAB	92
Katherine Chandler	GRE	206	Kidlington North		
Banbury Grimsbury & Castle			Douglas Williamson	LIBD	584
Claire Bell	LAB	950	Sandra Rhodes	CON	495
Tony Mephram	CON	574	Sara Corr	UKIP	281
Linda Wren	UKIP	507	Chris Robins	LAB	236
John Haywood	GRE	184	Fiona Mawson	GRE	106
Kenneth Ashworth	LIBD	103	Kidlington South		
Banbury Hardwick			Carmen Griffiths	CON	930
Tony Ilott	CON	624	Joe Claxton	LIBD	596
Ryan Wilkins	UKIP	521	Alan Harris	UKIP	520
Keith Humphries	LAB	510	David James	LAB	453
Claire Pearman	GRE	138	Ian Middleton	GRE	138
Anthony Burns	LIBD	102	Kirtlington		
Banbury Neithrop			Simon Holland	CON	480
Matt Johnstone	LAB	634	Andrew Hornsby-Smith	LAB	253
Alyas Ahmed	CON	433	Sebastian Fairweather	UKIP	188
Jason Williams	UKIP	363	Otmoor		
Andrew Aris	GRE	112	Timothy Hallchurch	CON	N/A
Banbury Ruscote			Sibford		
Barry Richards	LAB	699	George Reynolds	CON	618
Geordie Brown	UKIP	552	Paul Clifton	UKIP	146
Nichola Smith	CON	340	Anne Davis	LAB	120
Bernard Dod	GRE	100	John Batts	GRE	104
Bicester West			Janice Johnson	LIBD	61
Norman Bolster	CON	852	The Astons & Heyfords		
Polly Foster	LAB	543	James MacNamara	CON	860
Darren Cain	UKIP	505	Dickie Bird	UKIP	286
Bloxham & Bodicote			Annette Murphy	LAB	180
Chris Heath	CON	998	Jenny Tamblin	GRE	169
Paul Tucker	UKIP	364	John Innes	LIBD	79
Susan Christie	LAB	304	Wroxton		
Mary Franklin	GRE	185	Douglas Webb	CON	611
Peter Davis	LIBD	158	George Massingham	UKIP	141
			Derek Evans	LAB	134
			Rita White	GRE	92

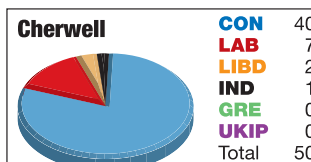
CONSERVATIVE Cherwell District Council leader Barry Wood said the UK Independence Party ate into its vote as the Tories lost two seats to Labour.

Yet he said he was "very pleased" with the overall result, which saw the party slip from 41 to 40 seats, retaining control of the 50-seat council.

Mr Wood said: "We lost a couple of seats in Banbury because it is mid-term and there are parts of Banbury that swing. We would expect that."

He said two seats were "no big deal" adding: "I think UKIP has taken votes from Conservatives."

"The bottom line here is they gained no seats. This is the same day as the European Parliament election. They have peaked."



Tony Mephram, who lost for the Tories in Banbury Grimsbury and Castle, said: "I think it was a large protest vote that went UKIP's way."

The only other seat in the Cherwell district that changed parties was Kidlington South, which the Tories picked up from the Liberal Democrats.

In 2010 the Lib Dems polled 2,226 and the Conservatives 1,984, but this fell to 596 and 930 respectively, with UKIP winning 520 votes this year.

Mr Wood said: "We can effectively predict Nicola Blackwood will be

returned as the MP for Oxford West and Abingdon next year".

Conservative Miss Blackwood won 23,906 votes compared to rival Lib Dem Evan Harris's 23,730 at the 2010 General Election.

Neil Fawcett, agent for Kidlington South Lib Dem candidate Joe Claxton, replacing party leader Tim Emptage, said: "We are disappointed to lose a seat but it is a better result in Kidlington South than we got in 2012."

He said: "Oxford West and Abingdon will be a very close fight between the two of us. If the Tories are complacent, they may well come a cropper."

UKIP's Dickie Bird, who lost in the battle for The Astons & Heyfords, said: "We are disappointed but there is still a big grin on our face. You have not heard the last of us."

Tears flow in memory of Eric

CHRIS Heath burst into tears as she held the seat of her late husband for the first time since his death.

Mrs Heath said: "I hadn't thought about it the last few weeks. I have been so busy. Then, all of a sudden, I thought 'I have done it and he doesn't know'."

Her husband-of-39-years, Eric Heath, had represented Bloxham and Bodicote between 1998 and 2010, before he stepped down due to ill health.

His wife took over for the Conservatives and won in 2010 and again last week, with 998 votes going to second-placed Paul Tucker, of UKIP.

Mr Heath died from complications from diabetes in 2011, aged 77.

Grandmother-of-two Mrs Heath said: "I have tried to do it the way he did it. He wanted to give something back to the village."

"I can hear him, some of the things I do and say, I think 'Eric would have said that'."



ABOVE AND FAR LEFT: Tears well up for Chris Heath

LEFT: Eric Heath

■ MP and council leaders tell of shock after online comment

Councillor suspended over Tweet



Mark Cherry

A LABOUR councillor, who was criticised for allegedly comparing Conservative policy to the Holocaust, has been suspended by his party and faces investigation.

Mark Cherry, a county councillor for Banbury Calthorpe, was criticised for sending out the *Tweet* on Monday of last week.

Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry wrote to Labour leader Ed Miliband describing Mr Cherry's *Tweet* as "intolerable".

Mr Cherry, who was elected to Oxfordshire County Council last year, said his *Twitter* account had been hacked and he had reported it to the police.

He said: "I am disgusted by anything anti-Semitic. Both my parents fought in the Second World War.

"I have done as much as I can. It is almost like it is some kind of witch-hunt."

Mr Cherry is also a member of Cherwell District Council and

By Damian Fantato

Banbury Town Council.

A spokesman for the Labour Party said he had been suspended pending an investigation.

Dan Sames, a Conservative district councillor, said he was "shocked" by the *Tweet* and had written to the leaders of the Labour group on each of the three local authorities Mr Cherry sits on.

He said: "I found the imagery to be deeply disturbing and as a Jewish person extremely offensive.

"The Holocaust was a genocide in which millions of innocent people lost their lives.

"It is abhorrent that anyone with a shred of moral decency should ever try to compare their systematic execution with government policy, regardless of an individual's view on such policy."

Both the district council and the county council said they had received no formal complaints against Mr Cherry.

InBRIEF

Clarkson in talks over £12m contract

■ JEREMY Clarkson, pictured, is reported to be in talks over a new £12m contract with the BBC, a national newspaper reported on Monday. It follows controversy over his



recent comments. The presenter, who lives in Chipping Norton, was embroiled in controversy over claims that he used two racist words in reports for BBC 2's *Top Gear*. Mr Clarkson, 54, said he did not mean to

mumble one of the words while reciting a nursery rhyme and was "mortified" by the mistake.

Horton ward to close

■ A MENTAL health ward at the Horton General Hospital, Banbury, is to close. The 19-bed Fiennes Unit is for over 65s detained under the Mental Health Act or with other mental health problems. Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust took the decision after a consultation from November 30 to February 4. It wants more patients to be cared for at home and said its community team would work seven days a week, from 9am to 8pm, Monday to Friday, and 9am to 5pm at weekends, compared to 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. No closure date was given for the Fiennes centre, which would still open in the day, said the trust, which also runs the 32-bed Fulbrook Centre at Oxford's Churchill Hospital.

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Police probe mystery death of man in 60s

A MAN was found dead in Deddington High Street early on Friday.

Thames Valley Police said the man, who is thought to have been in his late 60s, appeared to have fallen into an area in front of a basement window.

The man was found at 12.30am and South Central Ambulance Service were called to reports of a "medical emergency".

But the man was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics.

Police were treating his death as unexplained, but it was not thought to be suspicious.

Det Insp Steve Raffield, investigating the death, appealed for anyone with information to come forward.

He said: "We are working to establish the circumstances around this unexplained death. The deceased is aged in his late 60s, and is about 5ft 6in tall, of average build with short grey hair.

"I would appeal to anyone who may have seen a person matching this description around the time of the incident to contact me."

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Marusia driver Jules Bianchi, who scored the Banbury-based team's first points in Formula One



Bianchi makes history for Banbury team

MARUSSIA'S Jules Bianchi could not hide his delight at a ninth-placed finish on Sunday that earned the Banbury-based team their first points in Formula 1.

The celebrations were ecstatic at the other end of the Monte Carlo pitlane as the minnows finally registered points in the Constructors' Championship in what was their 83rd grand prix since entering the sport as Virgin Racing in 2010.

The result was all the more remarkable given that the day had started with a gearbox change for Bianchi which resulted

in a grid penalty, followed by further punishment from the stewards for starting in the wrong grid position after Pastor Maldonado, from the Enstone-based Lotus team, failed to get away on the formation lap.

The resultant five second stop-go penalty would continue to hang over the Frenchman even after he had crossed the line as he had served it while the safety car had been deployed, hence eighth became ninth in the final classification.

"We have been waiting for this for a long

time and now that we have done it I am so proud of the team," said a beaming Bianchi.

"They did a really good job and I am really happy to give them the result,"

"It was really stressful for me in the car and I guess for the team as well as we had some penalties, so I was lucky to finish in the points. I cannot say anymore, it is just amazing."

Team principal John Booth added: "The five-second penalty dropped us behind Romain Grosjean which is a shame, but we are absolutely over the moon."

InBRIEF

School gets new sixth form head

■ SIBFORD School has appointed a new head of sixth form studies. Cate Mallalieu-Needle will take up the position at the school in Sibford Ferris at the start of the next academic year. She has been director of post-16 Studies at Cooper School, Bicester, for the past four years and was previously head of sixth form at Chipping Norton School. She said: "Young people today are facing a future in a challenging world. They are also embarking on A-level qualifications that, I firmly believe, have become increasingly more academically complex. To prepare for these challenges, students need support and guidance. I am delighted that Sibford School will provide me with the opportunity to share my skills and understanding with students on a one-to-one basis."

■ 'This was a profound abuse of the trust invested in you'

Ex-Oxfam fraud chief jailed for £64,000 theft

THE former head of counter-fraud at Oxfam has been jailed for stealing more than £64,000 from the charity.

Edward McKenzie-Green, of The Leys, Chipping Norton, was sentenced to two years and five months in prison on Tuesday.

The 34-year-old stole the money while investigating misconduct by aid workers in disaster-stricken Haiti in 2011.

Judge Wendy Joseph, sentencing

By Ben Wilkinson

McKenzie-Green at the Old Bailey, in London, told him: "The consequences of your conduct are grave indeed. You have taken from those who desperately needed substantial sums of money.

"Worse, you have undermined the public confidence in a charitable institution.

"You were head of a department set up to counter fraud. This was a profound abuse of the trust invested in you."

McKenzie-Green resigned from his job in November 2011 but investigators working for the Oxford-based charity then discovered he had filed 17 bogus invoices from two companies over the previous nine months, totalling £64,612.58.

Father-of-one McKenzie-Green was arrested in April 2012 and claimed he was the victim of a corrupt conspiracy among senior staff at Oxfam, before he admitted the crime in March.

The court also heard McKenzie-Green, who had an annual budget of £250,000, was using anti-depressants and an anabolic steroid designed for animals at the time of his thefts.

Adam King, prosecuting, said: "He had demonstrated an erratic, disorganised and even combative approach to his work.

"Internal investigations into Mr McKenzie-Green had begun six months earlier, in December 2010."

Matthew Sherrat, defending, said: "During the period up to January this year, the defendant had a very serious addiction to prescription medication.

"At the same time his marriage, which he was attempting to hold together, was failing.

"He was involved in quite a high-pressure job. He had a good career and had enjoyed a responsible position.

"He suffered a breakdown and was moved to a psychiatric hospital."

Mr Sherrat said McKenzie-Green had been "paranoid" and was treated in hospital for a month.

He said: "He was putting money aside effectively in the expectation of losing his job."



Edward McKenzie-Green

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■ Katharine House 'deserves all the support and help that it can get'

Widower plans a fundraising bid for hospice

A MAN from Chipping Norton, who lost his wife to cancer earlier this year, is organising a special auction to raise money for the hospice that cared for her.

Rick Henderson, of Fox Close, is hoping to collect as much money as possible for Katharine House Hospice in Adderbury, which cared for his 46-year-old wife, Sue, who was a postal worker in the town for nearly 24 years.

She lost her two-and-a-half-year battle with breast cancer in February.

Mr Henderson, 50, who recently married Sue in a quiet ceremony at home in November, said the auction was just one of many ways he hoped to raise money for the hospice.

He said: "It's something I will do until I can't continue any more.

"Katharine House needs to find in the region of £4,500 a day to keep operating.

"It's the most amazing facility with the most amazing staff and they do the most amazing job. They deserve all the support and help they can get."

By Banbury reporter

The father-of-two, who also works for the Post Office, has organised an all-day fun event on Sunday at the Blue Boar pub.

There will be music from a female soul singer, a music quiz, the chance to win some raffle prizes donated by businesses in the town and an auction, which will take place at about 7.30pm.

Among the lots up for grabs will be a bottle of House of Commons whisky that has been signed by Prime Minister David Cameron, a signed copy of *Top Gear* presenter Jeremy Clarkson's latest book and a script and photo of actor Sir Ben Kingsley, who will sign it specially for whoever wins the bid.

To show his appreciation to all the people who cared for his wife, Mr Henderson, has recently donated £1,000 to the team of Laurence Home nurses, with support from Sue's friends and family, and £2,000 to Katharine House.



FLASHBACK
photograph
of former
postal worker
and cancer
victim Sue
Henderson

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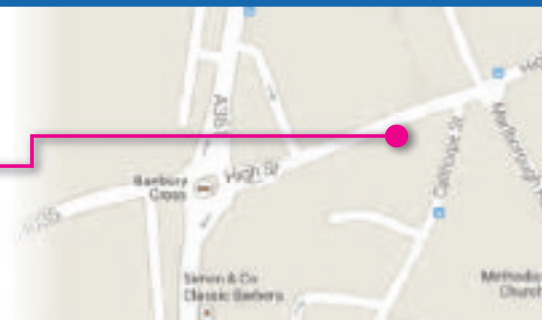
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InCOURT

Verdicts from magistrates courts around the county

■ **CLAIRE LASKO**, 61, of High Street, Chipping Norton, admitted speeding at 35mph in a 30mph zone in Oxford Road, Enstone, on October 10. Fined £200 and driving licence endorsed with three points.

■ **LISA TERRY**, 39, of Barclay Close, Deddington, admitted stealing perfume worth £16.99 from Boots in Castle Quay, Banbury, on March 19, also admitted failing to surrender to Banbury Magistrates' Court on April 28 and committing a further offence while subject to a conditional discharge made on July 29 for theft. Fined £30 and told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge.

■ **SHANNON PRICE**, 24, of Prescott Avenue, Banbury, admitted stealing meat worth £25.44 from Marks & Spencer in Bridge Street, Banbury, on April 2. Told to pay £25.44 compensation and £20 costs.

■ **PAUL HICKS**, 59, of Cotswold Crescent, Chipping Norton, admitted harassing a woman he was prohibited from contacting by a restraining order by telephoning her on April 26. Given an 18-week prison sentence suspended for 12 months.

■ **CARL CULLIFORD**, 21, of Henry Gepp Close, Adderbury, admitted receiving stolen goods, namely two motorbikes, at Banbury between August 31 and September 24. Fined £60 and ordered to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £200 costs.

■ **LEIGH LESTER**, 41, of School Lane, Banbury, admitted being drunk and disorderly in public, namely Banbury High Street, on April 26. Fined £50 and ordered to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £30 costs.

■ **ELIZABETH RIPLEY**, 37, of Chapel Street, Hook Horton, convicted of speeding at 40mph in a 30mph zone in Hempton Road, Deddington, on October 30. Fined £135 and told to pay a £25 victims' surcharge and £85 costs. Driving licence endorsed with three points.

Plea over a fundraising tribute

A VOLUNTEER for Banbury Samaritans is urging mobile phone addicts to ditch the dialers to raise money in memory of her daughter.

Cilla Squires, who has worked at the Samaritans in Banbury for more than 25 years, is fundraising in memory to her daughter, Claire, who died during the 2012 London Marathon.

The 30-year-old hairdresser was running the race to raise

money for the Samaritans, but collapsed a mile from the finishing line.

Phone Free Friday will see people go without their phones from 9am to 5pm on Friday, June 20, and make a donation of £4 – the cost of answering one Samaritans call.

Ms Squires said: "I have this wonderful image of Claire, always laughing with her friends on her phone. She

brought such warmth to everyone around her.

"I'm sure she would have loved to get involved in Phone Free Friday, combining two of her favourite things – her phone and fundraising for a great cause.

"I really can't think of a better way to continue Claire's legacy.

"Please everyone, get involved and help Samaritans to save more lives."



Claire Squires, who died while fundraising for the Samaritans

Agency hands out 'Scores on the Doors'

Keeping watch over county's food hygiene

ONLY a handful of more than 5,000 food establishments across the county have been told they need urgent improvements by the Food Standards Agency.

According to the FSA, which inspects all organisations who deal with food – including schools, universities, distributors, cafes, restaurants, takeaways, guest houses, farmers and growers, mobile caterers and retailers – only 11 sites were not up to scratch and were deemed to need "urgent improvement".

Under the so-called Scores on the

By Sam McGregor

Doors scheme, organisations are rated from zero – being the worst – to five, which is the highest rating.

Across the county the FSA oversees hygiene at more than 5,400 premises. It is also responsible for food safety, labelling and food law enforcement.

Hygiene inspections are carried out by local authorities on behalf of the FSA. The idea of the rating scheme is to help customers choose where to eat or shop by providing a score of hygiene standards at a premises.

It is not a legal requirement to display the results of the Scores on the Doors inspection at the premises but all ratings are published online at the Scores on the Doors website – food.gov.uk

A food establishment with a zero rating does not need to close. But it must make urgent improvements to hygiene standards.

The local authority food safety officer will use a number of enforcement tools, as well as giving advice and guidance to make sure these improvements are made.

The food safety officer will tell the business how quickly these improvements must be made and

this will depend on the type of issue that needs to be addressed

They could stop part of a business's operation or close it down if they find a business's hygiene standards are very poor and there is an imminent risk to health meaning food is not safe to eat.

A spokesman for the FSA said: "In November 2010 the national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the Food Hygiene Information scheme in Scotland was introduced and local authorities have been coming on board ever since.

"There are now 371 of the 374 local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (99 per cent) running the scheme.

"Two of the remaining three authorities are in the process of launching it.

"The scheme was introduced to allow consumers to make an informed choice by helping them choose where to eat out or shop for food by giving them information about the hygiene standards in restaurants, cafes, takeaways, hotels and food shops.

"The schemes also encourage businesses to improve hygiene standards. The overall aim is to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness."

Officer's thanks to the local recyclers

KEEN recyclers have been thanked for getting involved in a composting scheme.

Cherwell District Council's annual compost giveaway saw 30 tonnes of compost handed out to households.

Recycling officer Andrew Jenkins has now praised residents and wants to thank them for their recycling efforts over the past year.

He said: "We had more than 2,800 people turn out over the three days of our giveaway.

"While not everyone necessarily came for a free bag of compost, we did manage to hand out our biggest amount of compost ever – as well as many other recycling goodies and offers.

"Our residents do a fantastic job recycling day in, day out. This was our chance to show our appreciation and give something back in return. It also showed residents the direct benefits of taking the time to recycle their food and garden waste."

The council gave out 2,650 bags of compost an event in Banbury, as well as others in Bicester and Kidlington.

The giveaways were supported by Bicester Green, Grassroots Bicester, Kidlington Vs Climate Change and the Banbury Community Action Group.

Members from the Oxfordshire Natural Beekeeping Group attended the giveaways this month to urge residents to help the declining bee population.

Free wildflower seeds, to encourage the insects, were handed out by district council staff.

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THESE Banbury restaurants were among those given a five-star rating – their 'Scores on the Doors':

- Cori Italian Restaurant, Top Wok, Chens Cottage, and Pizza Express, all in High Street
- Gurkha Spice, Broad Street
- Quisine, Market Place
- Thai Orchid, North Bar

Railway police search for a public voice

BRITISH Transport Police are looking for people from Banbury to join an independent advisory group to help guide rail policing, provide feedback on operations and create community links.

Inspector Stuart Middlemas said: "The

aim is for the public and rail staff to get involved and be a voice for the community.

"We want them to challenge us when they don't think we are getting things right."

For more details, email Insp Middlemas on C-IAG@btp.pnn.police.uk

Hunt for bike thieves



A MOTORBIKE was been stolen after burglars forced their way into a garage in Worton Road, Middle Barton.

The Green Kawasaki KDX200 motorcycle – J126 U1C – was taken between 8.30pm and 11pm on Wednesday of last week.

Det Sgt Adrian Brooksbank appealed for anyone with information to contact him on 101 or to contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

■ Government assessment would give developers 'carte blanche'

Housing need greatly overstated, says expert

PRIVATE planning consultants "grossly overstated" Oxfordshire's housing need by more than double, a planning expert has claimed.

Alan Wenban-Smith, working as a consultant for the Campaign to Protect Rural England, said the assessed need to build 100,000 homes within 15 years, was "cobbled together".

He warned it would give builders "carte blanche in their choice of which sites to develop".

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment for Oxfordshire, published in March, recommended that councils build 40,000 more homes by 2031 than their previous targets.

In Cherwell, the district council's house-building target was 16,700 new homes by 2031 – but the latest SHMA report increased that to 22,800 by 2031, or 1,140 homes a year.

Oxfordshire's four district council leaders all said they wanted to challenge the figures – and the CPRE hopes this report will help them do just that.

CPRE Oxfordshire director Helen

By Pete Hughes

Marshall said: "The Oxfordshire SHMA is so overstated and so fatally flawed, both in its interpretation of evidence and lack of adherence to Government planning guidance policy, as to be unfit for purpose."

"In the light of the report's findings, CPRE is calling on all local authorities to reject the housing need estimate and not to use it as a basis for any future planning decisions."

Mr Wenban-Smith's report



Alan Wenban-Smith

concluded the housing assessment was not in accordance with Government planning policy, which allows "adjustment of the Government's published household projections", not, he said, a "wholesale replacement".

He also accused the SHMA's authors, a trio of private planning and economic consultancy firms, of replacing projections for migration in and out of Oxfordshire over ten years with an estimate "cobbled together" from total population and births and deaths.

He said: "They have nearly tripled the official Government estimate, with no adequate reasons."

"It will have the effect of giving builders carte blanche in their choice of which sites to develop to meet actual levels of demand."

The SHMA is the Government-recommended method for councils to calculate their housing need.

Councils are not obliged to accept the figure produced, but if they calculate their own figure by a different method, they will be required to justify it to a Government planning inspector, and explain why their

method is superior to the Government-recommended method.

One Oxfordshire council leader, Matt Barber, said his scrutiny committee was already looking at potential points on which to challenge the SHMA, and said he would look at the CPRE report for anything that could help.

He said: "If the methodology can be challenged, that would be incredibly helpful to us."

"Fundamentally we have the same aims as the CPRE, but they can say what they want, whereas we are a local authority."

Earlier this month, Oxfordshire MPs Ed Vaizey and John Howell called on planning minister Nick Boles to "urgently" review the SHMA methodology.

RIGHT: CPRE Oxfordshire director Helen Marshall



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County council report reveals cost of solving social problems

Turning around the 'troubled' families

InBRIEF

Councillor's new civic honour

■ COUNTY councillor Anne Purse has been elected as Oxfordshire County Council's chairman for the next year. The Lib Dem councillor was chosen to succeed Tim Hallchurch at the county council's annual meeting. Her new position involves chairing full council meetings and perform a variety of civic duties throughout the year. After accepting the role, she said she felt "privileged and proud".



Labour's Laura Price

MORE than 400 of Oxfordshire's so-called "troubled families" have been turned around, potentially saving taxpayers millions of pounds.

Estimated as costing £75,000 each every year, troubled families are those which have children excluded from school, parents on benefits and are often involved in crime or anti-social behaviour incidents.

Of the 810 "troubled" households identified in the county, and of the 700 that Oxfordshire County Council has worked with so far, 444 have been "turned around" since the scheme launched in April 2012.

But although Labour's shadow cabinet member for adult social care, Laura Price, welcomed the scheme, she expressed some concerns.

She said: "While the figures were good to hear, I would still want the county council to focus on early intervention.

"I would like to be able to pick the figures apart to see what does and doesn't work, so that we can really see what is working."

For every family the council turns in to "thriving families", with adults in work and children back at school, it gets up to £4,000.

So far, the county council, which had to pay out £1.6m

By Sophie Scott

at the start, has been awarded £2.5m and it is hoping to receive a total of £3m in grants by the end of next March.

Oxfordshire County Council leader Ian Hudspeth said: "The results we are continuing to see in Oxfordshire demonstrate that the scheme is working well here, and that by taking a firm but positive approach, our dedicated staff are helping families overcome their problems and make positive contributions to society."

Prime Minister and Oxfordshire MP David Cameron said: "Getting some of our county's most troubled families' lives back on track is a key part of our long-term plan. It saves the taxpayer money, gives people the chance to get on in life and secures a better future for these families, their communities and for our country."

Shake-up over aid for crime victims

THE Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley has announced new funding arrangements to support victims' services.

Anthony Stansfeld said this week that he was working

towards fully commissioned services by April next year.

Last November, the Government announced that Police and Crime Commissioners would become responsible for most of the support services for victims of crime in their area from October 2014.

This replaces the old system of grant funding by the Ministry of Justice, although some services would still be commissioned nationally. Applications for £600,000

worth of grants opened this week to support existing Thames Valley specialist services in priority areas.

This first phase of funding will include cash for restorative justice sessions, which

encourage dialogue between victims and offenders.

A second phase of grant applications for £793,000 will be launched in the autumn.

Mr Stansfeld said: "Within the new landscape for victims' services, there will be a mix of national, regional

and local commissioning.

"Working with the statutory, voluntary and community providers will be an integral part of our approach to ensure that we provide services that meet the needs of victims."



Anthony Stansfeld

Increase in cancelled operations

THE number of cancelled operations rose over the first three months of this year, latest figures show.

Some 188 operations were cancelled at the county's NHS hospitals between January and March.

The operations were cancelled at the "last minute" for "non-clinical reasons" at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust hospitals, figures show.

The trust runs Banbury's Horton General as well as Oxford's John Radcliffe, Nuffield Orthopaedic and Churchill hospitals.

Previous figures were 163 from April to June, 157 from July to September and 178 from September to December.

Figures were not provided by the trust for January to March 2013.

It comes after the Care Quality Commission regulator said lack of theatre space meant some surgical operations are cancelled "too often".

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InBRIEF

Plea for 'human search engine'

■ VOLUNTEERS are being sought to answer questions about mental health. Oxfordshire Mind is seeking people for its "human search engine" project to provide information about mental health issues. The event will be at Banbury's Mill Arts Centre on Saturday, June 7, from 11am to 5pm, and then at Cornbury Music Festival, from Friday, July 4, to Sunday, July 6. For further details, contact the charity at mina.katouzian@oxfordshire-mind.org.uk

Fundraising date

■ THE charity AgeUK Oxfordshire is inviting jazz enthusiasts to a fundraising concert at Broughton Castle. Tickets are available for the evening of traditional music, which will feature tunes from the George Huxley Jazz Band. The outdoor event, on Friday, July 11, will raise funds for AgeUK's White Lion Walk Banbury centre, which supports people in Banbury and the surrounding villages. The event will be attended by Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire John Harwood, High Sheriff of Oxfordshire Tony Stratton and the former *EastEnders* actress Pam St Clement. People can bring their picnics, chairs and rugs and enjoy the tunes from 7pm to 9.30pm. Tickets cost £12 and are available from AgeUK Oxfordshire on White Lion Walk. For more information: 01295 278040.

Floral challenge

■ BANBURY has launched its annual sunflower challenge. Members of the town council are asking schools and residents to try to grow the town's biggest sunflower. The contest will run until August 17 and is open to youngsters aged 16 and under who have an OX16 postcode. It is also open to pupils who attend a Banbury nursery, primary or secondary school. Contact Ann Sewell on 01295 250340.

■ Council's concern over its budget

Changes to rules over caring cash

NEW rules over who pays for care in later life could see a regional care budget spread thinly, it has been warned.

The Care Act 2014 – which has just become law – means that from 2016, people who fund their own elderly social care will have the cost capped at £72,000 in their lifetime.

But anyone whose care costs exceed this amount will have their care paid for by the county council.

The leader of Oxfordshire County Council has expressed concern about the impact new legislation could have on his authority's budget.

But Sheila Medlin, whose 100-year-old mother, Edith Murray, has a council-funded place in Langford View care home in Bicester, welcomed the legislation.

She said: "We couldn't have afforded paying for a care home ourselves without selling our home."

By Damian Fantato

"I don't think any of us want to go into a care home but my husband is disabled and something is going to happen in the not too distant future regarding his needs."

The cap will only apply to those who fund their own care entirely, and will only apply to the cost of care, and not the cost of accommodation.

Anyone who has capital assets exceeding £23,250 or who does not want to disclose their financial circumstances will normally be expected to pay for the full cost of their care.

Ian Hudspeth, the council's leader, said: "It is one of those situations where we may have additional pressures coming on to our budget because we have got an elderly population in Oxfordshire."



County council leader Ian Hudspeth



Sheila Medlin pictured with her 100-year-old mother, Edith Murray

"We are all living longer and the cap will be approached quicker. The fact that Oxfordshire has a large proportion of self-funders is going to be a challenge for us because we will have to find the funding ourselves."

The county council's adult social care department has already been hit by funding cuts from central government, with £7m taken out of its budget in this financial year.

Oxfordshire MP Andrew Smith said: "There are some positive steps forward in the Care Act, but there is a real danger that the cap on care costs will not benefit nearly as many people as the Government promised."

"I share the county council's concerns that Government cuts in their allocated care budget will make it difficult for them to meet rising need."

The cap only applies to "self-funders", or those who pay to go into a care home themselves, rather than use a council-funded one.

In Oxfordshire there are around 4,000 beds in the independently-run

care home and nursing home sector, of which just 40 per cent are occupied by council-funded residents.

George Tuthill, chairman of Oxfordshire Care Home Association and managing partner of Wardington House care home, estimated that staying in an Oxfordshire care home for a week costs an average of £900.

He said people stay in a care home for two years on average, leading to costs of more than £90,000.

But the cap will only apply to the costs of care rather than the costs of accommodation.

He said: "The principle of the Act is sound – but we don't know the full details of how the cap is going to be split between the care costs and the accommodation costs. There is a lot that is currently not clear."

A county council spokesman said: "This work is under way to understand what the possible implications may be. However, it's an ongoing process, which involves a lot of detail, and will take some time."

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The cruellest disease

THE challenge of dementia is vast – and growing at an alarming rate.

The county has always had a high proportion of older people and the number of those aged 85 and over is set to rise to 39,400 by 2035.

This will put massive pressure on families – both emotional and practical – as well as health services.

A total of 3,566 sufferers were recorded by NHS Oxfordshire on March 31 last year, a figure that rose to 3,936

Following Dementia Awareness Week, **OLIVER EVANS** looks at efforts being made, from meetings in cafes to ground-breaking research, to tackle a shocking disease

this year. The problem comes sharply into focus when people suffering from dementia go to hospital with another problem, such as an infection or injury.

Dr Sarah Pendlebury, of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, is charged with not only ensuring patients with dementia are handled

sensitively but with making sure medics diagnose new cases.

She said: "A significant number of our patients – about 25 per cent – haven't been diagnosed before they come to us, even though they have a problem with thinking and memory."

"Sometimes people can be

more focused on physical illnesses of an older person."

Recent steps at in wards throughout the county include the 2011 introduction of a standardised memory test. This involves asking the patient ten questions, including where they are and to name their address.

Dr Pendlebury said: "In theory, this regular questioning is in place throughout the trust, but I must ensure that trust's staff are consistent with this and embedded in regular process."

The trust last year set up monthly "dementia cafes" at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to bring together patients, carers and staff to swap advice and information.

"Often it can be difficult for people to know what services are available, like carers' groups."

"Carers need support, so they can feel they are not the only one to cope with the challenge."

Ten senior nursing staff have been sent on specialist training to the University of Worcester and the trust last year hired 20 psychologists and eight psychiatrists to help support patients, with more planned.

Dr Pendlebury said: "This is a significant new addition to the trust. We now have consultants whose role is to provide expert advice and diagnosis on patients with mental health problems."

Those diagnosed with dementia are also sent to trust memory clinics, where their condition is diagnosed and given, where appropriate, specialised drugs.

Yet these pills only enhance brain cells that have not yet been degraded. Research has yet to provide enough understanding about what causes the condition and how to provide the best treatment to stop brain cells being destroyed by Alzheimer's.



Dr Sarah Pendlebury

Local research includes a study at the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre in Oxford – which brings together NHS and university researchers – of 8,000 stroke patients since 2007, to probe any link between the conditions.

Dr Pendlebury said: "It is a huge challenge. We probably haven't had any new drugs for the treatment of dementia for the

last two decades.

"A lot of the drugs that have been trialled have been shown not to be effective or had major side effects, like inflaming the brain."

But she said: "I am still optimistic. I think we have made huge advances on things like brain imaging, to better understand the issues that contribute to dementia."



RIGHT: Joy Watson with her husband, Roy, who is suffering from dementia

What it is like living with the disease

JOY Watson first discovered her 72-year-old husband, Roy, had dementia three years ago.

The 70-year-old Chipping Norton resident said: "The first year was hell."

"He often shouted at me. Other times he would get into a panic in shops because he could not find his credit card."

"At first, when we went to see the doctor, we were told the problem was just depression. But they did more tests at the Horton Hospital in Banbury, and said it was mild cognitive impairment."

The condition, Mrs Watson said, affects the frontal lobe of her husband's brain. There, sensitive systems of the cerebral cortex are associated with reward, attention, short-term

memory tasks, planning, and motivation.

His long-term memory has remained largely unaffected, she said, but he is often unable to recognise her.

She said: "It is like being married to a different person. It is just awful."

"He has hardly any conversation and has no idea about money or what day it is."

"Quite often he will still go to the shop to buy a paper, but he will just forget about me and won't say goodbye if he goes out."

"It makes you feel like a stranger in your own home."

"But because he is physically fit and healthy, we are mostly just left to our own devices."



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Meet the master of the perfect pasta

MOST books that detail the history of pasta state it comes in more than 300 different shapes, whereas Antonio Carluccio, the master of Italian cookery, claims there are at least 600 different shapes.

As he has been lovingly making, cooking and eating pasta for more than 70 years (if you accept that it was the first solid he was given as a four-month-old baby) I am inclined to accept his findings.

Having written 18 books on Italian cooking, each of which has mentioned pasta, Antonio has acquired an exceptional pasta knowledge over the years.

He is known as the Godfather of Italian cuisine and recognised as Italy's greatest food ambassador.

His latest book, *Pasta: by Antonio Carluccio* (Quadrille Publishing – £20) contains loads of new pasta recipes and many variations on the classics.

It is an inspiring publication worthy of any kitchen library. Antonio will be signing copies of his new book in Bicester Village at 1pm on Thursday, June 12, as part of his Festa Della Pasta – a month-long event that takes in all his food shops.

His aim is to introduce us to a whole new world of pasta. They now now include everything from gluten free, to wholemeal, to pre-flavoured pastas, so that there is something new for even the most experienced pasta lover.

There's Pannocchie, for example, which is perfect for thick sauces, whether meat ragu or vegetable.

From its shape, it is easy to see why Pannocchie takes its name from corn on the cob, and why it would be perfect with a thick sauce.

To quote Antonio: "The smoother the pasta, the thinner the sauce. The more convoluted the pasta shape, or the rougher the outside of the pasta, the thicker the sauce."

Linguine a Strisce, on the other hand, is a children's favourite as it's a fun rainbow pasta, coloured with spices and vegetables such as sweet paprika, beetroot, spinach and turmeric. Its colour when cooked.

Antonio's new book contains 100 recipes that match the pasta with the perfect sauce. Thanks to superb photographs by Laura Edwards, the reader is also shown how to make and shape fresh pasta.

Shaping hand-rolled dough is fun. You can even create your own variations on the classic shapes.

There's a pasta code too: how much pasta do we cook?

Is it just a matter of throwing a handful for each person into the pot of boiling water? No.

For small starter portions you need to allow 50 grams of dried pasta or 90 grams of fresh.

Normal portions for a lunch is about 70-80 grams of dried or 100-110 grams of fresh pasta – though much depends on the pasta's quality and its shape. The saucepan must be

Helen Peacocke on the joys of a book about the new world of pasta shapes

large and the amount of salted water it contains generous, to allow the pasta sufficient space to move as the water boils.

Antonio says he's often asked how to test the pasta for an al dente finish.

Most Italians like it with a light resistance to the tooth. If cooked for too long, pasta becomes slightly indigestible, producing a feeling of weight in the stomach.

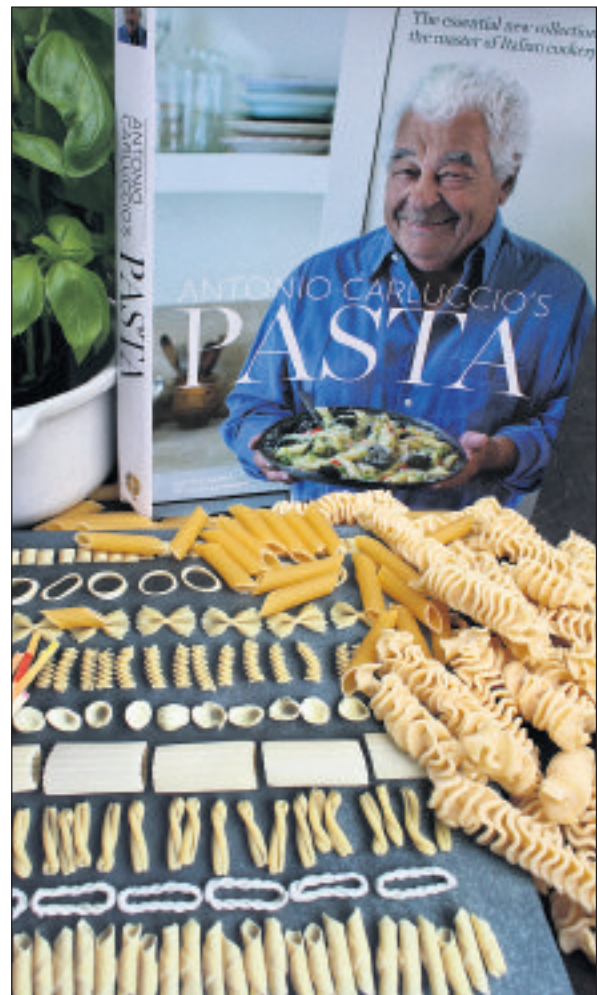
The joy of Antonio's book is that it embraces both his love of pasta and his food philosophy, which

is to cook with the minimum of fuss to produce the maximum of flavour using good simple ingredients.

Unlike many other chefs, who tend to write complex recipes that call for countless ingredients, his recipes are simple. Some contain as few as four ingredients.

But the main thing is that his enthusiasm for pasta is infectious.

It is no wonder that he was presented the Commendatore Award in 1998 for his knowledge, enthusiasm and lifetime's service to the Italian food industry.



The cover of Antonio Carluccio's new book



ABOVE LEFT: Pannocchie, perfect for thick sauces



LEFT: One for the children – Linguine a Strisce

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Milestone for Haupt



Craig Haupt, who made it 9,000 league runs when hitting 64 not out to lead Banbury to their third successive win of the season

CRAIG Haupt brought up 9,000 league runs after leading Banbury to a third straight victory on Saturday.

The left-hander hit an unbeaten half-century as his side took full advantage of their rivals' abandonments to surge clear at the top of the Division 1 table of the Home Counties Premier League after a seven-wicket success at Tring Park.

Haupt's 64 not out came off 77 balls, with nine fours.

And it was enough to take him to exactly 9,000 runs, having started the season 85 short of the milestone.

With a top score of 200 not out against Beaconsfield in 2001, Haupt has hit 21 hundreds and 53 half-centuries.

His individual achievements, rightly got the headlines, but it

was a superb spell from Luke Ryan that set Banbury up for their latest win in a match reduced to 38 overs because of rain.

The Oxfordshire captain tore through the Tring lower order as he finished with 4-9 off eight economical overs.

This carried on the good work of opening bowler Dean Bartlett, who also claimed four wickets.

Bartlett had Tring opener Robin Pritchard caught by Jimmy Phillips, before Leigh Tomlinson was run out by a direct throw from Justin Lambden at third man.

Bartlett, who finished with 4-29, then claimed the wickets of William Jones, Duncan Maddison and James Haw-kes as Tring struggled to 60-5 having been asked to bat.

Ryan then took over, mopping up the tail as Tring

reached 128-9, an unbroken last-wicket stand of 45 between Michael Payne, who finished unbeaten on 54, and Douglas Pratt giving their score some respectability.

Despite losing Lloyd Sabin and Daniel Harris cheaply, Haupt's landmark knock saw

Banbury home with eight overs remaining.

● **Banbury 20pts, Tring Park 3**

● THE matches involving Banbury and Oxford were the only Home Counties Premier League games to play on Saturday.

SCORECARD

TRING PARK

RR Pritchard c Phillips b Bartlett	..12
L Tomlinson run out	..16
W Jones c Manley b Bartlett	..15
D Maddison c Cater b Bartlett	..57
M Payne not out	..14
J Hawkes lbw Bartlett	..1
J Deal lbw Ryan	..1
R Wilson c West b Ryan	..8
A Ahmed lbw Ryan	..8
S Stanway c Lambden b Ryan	..0
D Pratt not out	..6
Extras	..19
Total (9 wickets, 38 ovs)	..128
Fall: 1-26, 2-40, 3-49, 4-58, 5-60, 6-67, 7-83, 8-83, 9-83.	
Bowling: Bartlett 8-3-29-4, Manley	

5-1-19-0, Blanchard	6-0-12-0,
Phillips 4-0-19-0, Ryan	8-3-9-4,
West 7-0-37-0.	

BANBURY

L Sabin c Payne b Wilson	..11
D Harris c Ahmed b Wilson	..13
C Haupt not out	..64
J Cater c Hawkes b Payne	..7
R West not out	..18
Extras	..8
Total (3 wickets, 30 ovs)	..121
Fall: 1-20, 2-31, 3-50.	
Bowling: Stanway 8-1-17-0, Pratt	
5-0-15-0, Wilson 4-0-16-2, Payne	
5-1-27-1, Tomlinson 2-0-10-0,	
Ahmed 4-0-16-0, Jones 1-0-6-0,	
Maddison 1-0-11-1.	

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ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

Travel is well starred for you and you start to feel that life is good again. You've picked out the thorns in your side and discarded them and you now see what and who you need around you to be happy. You can't change your family, but you can change the way you react to them. Back away and don't get into confrontations. It's your winning hand. Call now and I'll talk you through it.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Friends turn into lovers for some of you sign. Think carefully before you do cross this line though Libra, as you know as well as I do that your sign needs someone who can be a best friend and a lover all rolled into one. Stick to plans for the weekend. You won't believe who's gone out of their way to see you. Ring now to hear why love and family can mix for once.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

So where do I start, it is probably what you're thinking Taurus? Well, you can start by doing what's necessary and then with what's possible. Then suddenly my friend, you will be doing the impossible. You have a fight on your hands in your career, but allowing a third person to mediate appears to be the answer to getting what you want and need. Ring now and I'll reveal all.

0906 585 4361

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You are remembering certain aspects about the past through rose coloured spectacles and in the process you are making some pretty dangerous decisions. Time is on your side, so use it and don't be rushed. You have to remember Scorpio that life is what you make it so make yours count. Spending time with those you know well this week brings clarity and sense. Ring now so I can help.

0906 585 4367

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Your life has been more than you can handle at times this year but over the coming days you start to see the answer you need. Simplify Gemini. Simplify your life and get a little solitude this week. Your weakness has been that you don't know when to tell people you need some time alone to see what your feelings and views are. Ring now to hear what I think you need in love.

0906 585 4362

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You don't grow old. When you cease to grow you are old. You've allowed the events of the last twelve weeks to make you feel this way, when the reality of the situation is that you are now equipped with the experience and wisdom to know how to stay young and enjoy life. Give me a call so I can show you how to be confident about what and who you want again.

0906 585 4368

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

I can see that you're scared of life. You want to know that the future is going to be happy, but you can't seem to work out how you are going to get the changes you need without hurting people's feelings. Let me tell you Cancer, people already know what you want and need more than you do. Don't suffer fools gladly. Ring now so you can see people around you for who they really are.

0906 585 4363

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Smile and be nice to all you meet in the coming days. First impressions, both in business and pleasure, will count for more than you could imagine. This is also a great time to dip your toes in the waters of independence in your career. Restrictions lift and you start to feel empowered to admit openly what you want and see for yourself in the future. Ring now for this progressive time.

0906 585 4369

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

When we can't seem to see what we need to do, it is often because the view from where we are standing is not a good one. Move and take in the world from an alternative angle. I think you'll soon see that it is others, not you, who are making for such an unsettled feel to this month. Time to tell those around you what you really need and expect from them. Ring now for some negotiating skills.

0906 585 4364

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

We all have a past Aquarius, it's just that yours is often more colourful than most. Embrace who you are, don't be embarrassed by it. Those who are not deserve a place in your life. Take all new relationships at a slower pace this week, or you won't get to find out what they're really like and aspects suggest they could be very compatible indeed. Ring now to shape your career more to your needs.

0906 585 4370

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Breathe slowly Virgo and count from one to ten so you can gain control of your emotions. I think you know that you deserve happiness but a certain person did a very good job of convincing you otherwise. Mixing with a younger crowd helps you get life on a more even keel with a sense of what's important. Ring now to hear how to best handle those difficult financial issues pending.

0906 585 4365

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

They don't call you the most passionate sign in the zodiac for nothing, but this wonderful trait also leads you into all sorts of trouble. Careful you're not ignoring people's feelings this week. If you have to wait for who and what you want then so be it. To rush will only see you losing friends and opportunities, remember that. Ring now so I can give you the gift of patience and planning.

0906 585 4371

It's all action as X-Men fight for their survival

X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST (12A, 131 mins) Sci-Fi/Action/Thriller/Romance. Hugh Jackman, James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, Nicholas Hoult, Peter Dinklage, Evan Peters, Patrick Stewart, Ian McKellen, Ellen Page, Halle Berry, Shawn Ashmore, Josh Helman, Mark Camacho. Director: Bryan Singer.

Past and present collide in a hazy blur with this muscular sequel, which ushers Bryan Singer back into the director's chair for the first time since *X-Men 2* in 2003.

Familiar faces and new additions to the mutant fold jostle for attention in Simon Kinberg's script, which indulges in a spot of time travel to strengthen ties between the *X-Men* and *Wolverine* franchises.

Days Of Future Past delivers on the eye-popping spectacle, including a breathtaking slow-motion action sequence in which a mutant (Evan Peters), who can move at superhuman speeds, diverts the trajectory of bullets before they reach the intended targets.

There is plenty of soul-searching too for the characters, who must make personal sacrifices for the greater good if the mutant race is to survive a sustained assault by futuristic robotic hunters.

In a dystopian 2023, Professor Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart) and his kin, including Magneto (Ian McKellen), Wolverine (Hugh Jackman), Storm (Halle Berry) and Iceman (Shawn Ashmore) stand on the precipice of extinction.

The Sentinel programme, conceived by scientist Dr Bolivar Trask (Peter Dinklage), has almost

wiped out the mutant population and any human sympathisers using an army of highly skilled automatons attuned to mutant DNA.

It's only a matter of time before the Sentinels track Xavier and the surviving mutants to a mountaintop temple in China and complete the extermination.

One glimmer of hope remains: if Kitty Pryde (Ellen Page) can harness her abilities and propel Wolverine's consciousness back to 1973, they might be able to stop alluring shape-shifter Mystique (Jennifer Lawrence) from assassinating Trask.

This is the pivotal event, which lights the fuse on the Sentinel programme under the administration of President Nixon (Mark Camacho).

While Xavier and co prepare to fight the Sentinels, Wolverine's consciousness slips back to flaretroused 1973 where he seeks out young Professor X (James McAvoy), Beast (Nicholas Hoult) and Magneto (Michael Fassbender).

Professor X agrees to divert Mystique from her ill-fated path but the best-laid plans of mice and mutants often go astray and vengeful Magneto senses an opportunity to change the course of history in favour of the super-powered minority.

"Killing one man isn't enough," he tells Mystique.

"It never was for you," she responds coldly.

X-Men: Days Of Future Past is a solid and highly enjoyable chapter that doesn't get too bogged down in bamboozling science, letting protagonists do the talking with their claws and amazing abilities.



A scene from *X-Men: Days Of Future Past*, with Hugh Jackman as Wolverine

Picture: PA Photo/
Twentieth Century Fox Film

Jackman's hirsute brawler provides the narrative glue between parallel time frames and he shamelessly panders to fans with some gratuitous nudity.

McAvoy and Fassbender trade physical and verbal blows while Oscar-winner Lawrence performs impressive gymnastic feats in figure-hugging blue make-up that leaves little to the feverish imagination.

The blitzkrieg of slick digital effects melds seamlessly with live action elements, although there are few concessions to the 3D format.

A tantalising end credits teaser hints at what fans can expect from *X-Men: Apocalypse* in 2016.

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FRIDAY: Castle House, Cornhill, Market Place, Banbury: Bands gig – with Swindlestock. From 7pm. £2. 07967094898.

General Foods S&S club, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Andy Robbins. Young singer and guitarist making a venue debut. Free. 9pm. 01295 252852.

Musketee, Ruscote Avenue, Banbury: Pete McCray, with soul and reggae. Free. 9pm. 01295 268296.

New Inn, Main Road, Middleton Cheney: Nikki Loy. 9pm. 01295 710399.

SATURDAY: St Mary Church, Church Road, Chipping Norton: Moonrakers. One of Oxfordshire's finest acoustic groups, specialising in Irish, Scottish, Welsh and English traditional and contemporary tunes and songs. 7.30pm. £10 on the door. 01865 769206.

SUNDAY: Blue Boar, Goddards

Lane, Chipping Norton: Nikki Loy. Singer and song writer. Free. 5pm. 01608 643525.

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury:

Jun 1, *The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged) (revised)*. An irreverent, fast-paced romp through the Bard's plays. £14, concession £12. 7.30pm.

Jun 4, *Up Pompeii*. All the TV favourites in a full-length play. 7.30pm. £14, concession £12. Box office: 01295 279002.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: May 29, Jay Rayner – *A Greedy Man In A Hungry World*. Restaurant critic and *BBC One Show* reporter Jay Rayner combines hardnosed reporting with witty memoirs. 7.45pm. £15, concession £13. May 31, *The Commitments*. A tribute to the film of the '90s. £16,

concession £14. 7.45pm. May 31, *The Jungle Book*. 11.30am. £8.50.

Jun 1, Fairport Convention. An acoustic line-up presenting a more intimate take on the legendary band's music. 7.45pm. £22.

Jun 3, Blofeld and Baxter. Broadcasters Henry Blofeld and Peter Baxter take a hilarious trip down memory lane. £18.

Jun 4, *Wild Night* – Choose Your Own Documentary. Like the adventure books of the 1980s, you determine the theatremakers fate in an interactive experience – part stand-up storytelling, part film documentary. Using keypads to vote, every twist and turn is in your hands. With more than 1,500 paths and multiple endings where will the story lead? Who can help you discover the truth behind the diary's pages and the identity of its mysterious writer? You decide. 7.45pm. Box office: 01608 642350.

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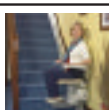
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Who (or what) is CACI?

CACI stands for Computer Aided Cosmetology Instrument and is backed by over two decades of medical

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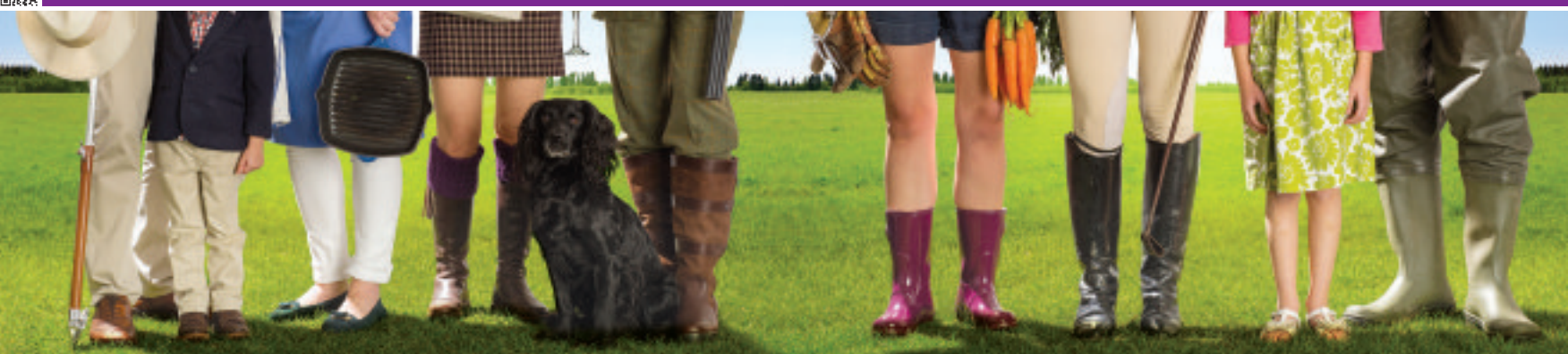
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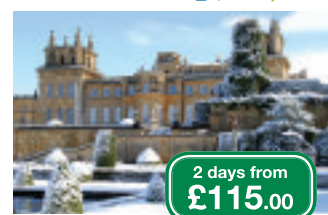
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Picasso adds pace to space machine

By David Duffy

LONG gone is the time when all drivers expected from a people carrier was space, space and more space.

The popularity of the vehicles quickly moved them out of the utilitarian van-like sector, with their soaring levels of comfort and equipment.

They have reached a new peak in the sleek Citroën Grand C4 Picasso which is probably the most practical, versatile and elegant offering in the seven-seat segment.

Priced £1,700 higher than an equivalent five-seat New C4 Picasso, the range starts from about £19,000, rising to more than £27,000.

All models sport the same light and airy cabin that offers an uncluttered feel thanks to acres of space for the driver and up to six passengers.

Technology is state of the art and the dashboard houses both a seven-inch touchscreen and a 12-inch digital display. The list of systems fitted is simply too long to run through but suffice to say it ranges from keyless entry and start, reversing camera and electric tailgate, to a four-camera, all-round panoramic display and automatic assistance when parking into a tight space.

Like the five-seat C4 Picasso, the

upper 12-inch display can show all sorts of information and can be changed in various ways, while the lower seven-inch touchscreen controls many of the vehicle's functions.

Should you wish, you can scroll through screen after screen, selecting front, rear or all-round cameras and electronic parking assist systems, not to mention the audio, climate control and satellite navigation, and that is all before you hook up your smartphone to the system.

But where the car scores its highest marks is in its fine balance between ride comfort and road-holding, which combine to deliver an impressive driving experience.

Like the five-seater, this is a car that comes alive when given the chance for an effortless spell of long-distance cruising. Everyone on board is treated to a panoramic view, while the suspension soaks up bumps, without being overly soft in



RELAXED CRUISER: The Picasso comes alive on long journeys

bends. Luxury car features range from active cruise control to automatic high beam headlamp operation, ultrasonic blind spot monitoring and a lane departure warning system.

The three second-row seats are divided into three and fold easily, and access is easy to the rear-most pair of seats thanks to a neat tilt-and-slide mechanism, but it is the people at the front who get most pampered, with a pair of front massaging seats and an airline-style footrest for the front passenger.

The Grand C4 Picasso still offers masses of space, but it is skilfully blended with pace and not a little grace.

Auto facts

Model: Citroën Grand C4 Picasso
Exclusive e-HDi 115 Airdream
Price: £25,655
Insurance group: 19E
Fuel consumption (Combined): 70.6mpg
Top speed: 117mph
Length: 459.7cm/181in
Width: 182.6cm/71.9in
Luggage capacity: 28 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 12.1 gallons/55 litres
CO2 emissions: 105g/km
Warranty: 3 years/60,000 miles

Motormuseumnews

Display celebrates two-wheeled triumphs

A NEW display in the National Motor Museum, The Motorcycle Story, has been opened.

In welcoming guests on behalf of his father, Lord Montagu, the Hon Ralph Montagu said: "We are now well over halfway through a total re-display of the National Motor Museum which has been several years in development. The latest phase is the display of our motorcycle collection in The Motorcycle Story."

Following a ribbon cutting, motor racing commentator, Murray Walker, was invited to unveil a

plaque marking his father, Graham Walker's role as the first curator of the motorcycle collection at Beaulieu, beside a display case celebrating his life and achievements.

Unveiling the Motorcycling Icons Wall of Fame were two of the icons, 11 times British Trials Champion, Sammy Miller and Britain's most successful female motorcycle trials rider, Becky Cook.

The Motorcycle Story takes the visitor on a journey through motorcycling history and the human quest for freedom, individuality and desire to win.

For the first time, machines are displayed in their historical and cultural context; tying technological developments to changing trends in fashion, style and sport.

Supporting artefacts include clothing worn and trophies won by sporting greats in displays which cover varied racing disciplines as well as road safety, British 'Mods and Rockers' culture of the 1950s and 60s and the Ace Café scene. The gallery includes some of the earliest examples of motorcycles from the beginning of the 1900s.

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■ **TOYOTA** is revising the Auris range with new and revised trim grades and additional equipment features for both hatchback and Touring Sports wagon. A new Icon Plus grade, including rear privacy glass, retracting door mirrors and heated front sports seats, is being introduced. Auris prices start at £14,945

■ **NEW** analysis by car cost experts, CAP Automotive, shows the smallest cash depreciation over the past three years and 60,000 miles was boasted by the Kia Picanto – which lost an average of just £4,010 over the same period and mileage.

■ **BENTLEY** is marking its 95th anniversary in the UK by unveiling the 'Mulsanne 95', a striking special edition of the company's luxurious flagship model. Only 15 examples will be hand crafted by Bentley's Mulliner division in Crewe and all are reserved for customers in the United Kingdom.

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